

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SEC-01 JUSE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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P R 202320Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 242

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: FQXA

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: FACIO ASKED BANANA INVESTIGATION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO REVEALED TO THE PRESS
YESTERDAY MAY 19 THAT HE HAS ASKED THE SEC TO MAKE AN
INVESTIGATION NOT ONLY OF UNITED BRANDS BUT OF THE
OTHER BANANA COMPANIES, DEL MONTE AND STANDARD, TO
FIND OUT IF IT IS CORECT, AS RUMOR HAS IT, THAT THE
THREE COMPANIES CREATED A FUND OF \$5 MILLION TO
DESTABILIZE THE GOVERNMENTS THAT HAD FORMED UPEB.

2. FACIO SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE SEC THAT THE
INVESTIGATION SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THOSE
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COMPANIES USED SUCH METHODS AS: BRIBERY IN HONDURAS,

PAYMENTS IN GUATEMALA IN ORDER THAT THE BANANA TAX WOULD NOT BE APPROVED; CAMPAIGNS OF SCANDAL AND DEFAMATION IN COSTA RICA; ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE CHIEF OF STATE OF PANAMA; AND ATTEMPTS TO DESTABLIZE THE COUNTRIES THAT CREATED UPEB. FACIO SAID THAT HE HAS NO PROOF THAT THINGS WERE DONE IN THIS WAY BUT HE THINKS THAT IT IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME FOR SUCH CHARGES TO BE INVESTUCATED OR TO SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS THERE WERE PAYMENTS NOT TO COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS BUT TO NEWSMEN OR HEADS OF ADVERTISING COMPANIES OR OTHER GROUPS FOR CAMPAIGNS OF DESTABILIZATION.

3. MEANWHILE, PLN DEPUTIES HAVE INTRODUCED A BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF ALL UNCULTIVATED LAND BELONGING TO UNITED BRANDS. COMPENSATION WOULD BE BASED ON THE VALUE DECLARED FOR TAX PURPOSES DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS. THE BILL IS SAID TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE 27 PLN DEPUTIES, PLUS TWO PASO DEPUTIES, AND TO REQUIRE NINE MORE VOTES FOR PASSAGE.TODMAN

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